

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.
Applicants have added claim 14.

Claims 1-6, 11, and 12 stand allowed. Claims 7-10 and 13 stand rejected (see below).

Applicants have amended claim 8 and claim 9 to be directed to more specific methods.

Applicants have added claim 14, directed to methods for inhibiting a caspase. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

None of these amendments adds new matter.

The Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 7-10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as lacking enablement. The Examiner contends that although the specification is enabling "for preserving cells or organs or treating arthritis" the specification does not enable a skilled practitioner "to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims." Applicants traverse.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's contentions. Nevertheless, applicants have presented amended claims for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants submit that the recited diseases are all characterized by inflammation or apoptosis and that the description enables treating those diseases according to the claimed methods. For these reasons, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw these section 112, first paragraph rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants request that the Examiner enter the above amendments, consider the foregoing remarks, and allow the pending claims to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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